

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /076 W
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O R 301703Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1289
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PN, LY
SUBJECT: TORRIJOS TRIP TO LIBYA

REF: PANAMA 1993

SUMMARY: GROUP ANNOUNCED TODAY WHICH WILL ACCOMPANY
TORRIJOS TO LIBYA CONSISTS OF SOME 49 PEOPLE, INCLUDING
STAFF, TRANSLATORS AND GUARDS. LIKE THE GROUP THAT
WENT WITH THEGENERAL TO CUBA LAST YEAR, IT IS FAIRLY
BALANCED IDEOLOGICALLY. IF ANYTHING, IT TILTS SLIGHTLY
TO THE RIGHT OF CENTER. DATE OF TRIP STILL HAS NOT BEEN
OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED, BUT INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT WILL
BE SOON. END SUMMARY.

1. MORNING PAPERS WEDNESDAY MARCH 30 ANNOUNCED
COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP WHICH WILL ACCOMPANY GENERAL
TORRIJOS ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO LIBYA. PRESS
REPORTS THE GROUP WILL TOTAL 49 PEOPLE INCLUDING
STAFF, TRANSLATORS AND SECURITY PERSONNEL.
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2. CABINET: PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FERNANDO
GONZALEZ; FERNANDO MANFREDO, MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY;
ERNESTO PEREZ BALLADARES, FINANCE MINISTER;
NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA, PLANNING MINISTER; LTC RUBEN
DARIO PAREDES, AGRICULTURE MINISTER; ADOLFO AHUMADA,
LABOR MINISTER; ABRAHAM SAIED, HEALTH MINISTER.

3. OTHER GOVERNMENT: NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION MEMBERS CARLOS PEREZ HERRERA AND ROLANDO MURGAS; ABEL RODRIGUEZ, VICE-MINISTER OF HOUSING; EDUARDO TEJEIRA, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL FINANCIAL CORPORATION (COFINA); DIOGENES DE LA ROSA, FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISER AND TREATY NEGOTIATOR; GUILLERMO VEGA, PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE; RODRIGO ("RORY") GONZALEZ, DIRECTOR OF CERRO COLORADO COPPER CORP.

4. EDUCATORS: DR. ADOLFO YOUNG, DEAN OF MEDICINE; DR. JORGE ARANGO, DEAN OF DENTISTRY; DR. CESAR QUINTERO;, DEAN OF LAW; DR. CARMELO CINIGLIO, FACULTY OF SCIENCES-- ALL FROM UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA--MARITZA DE LANDERO, AND RAMON ARGOTE.

5. BUSINESSMEN: JUAN JOSE AMADO, PRESIDENT OF SOCIETY OF PANAMANIAN INDUSTRIALISTS (SIP); HARALAMBOS TZANETATOS; CARLOS DUQUE; MARIO DE DIEGO, FORMER PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (WHO LOST THAT POSITION LARGELY BECAUSE HE WENT WITH TORRIJOS TO CUBA LAST YEAR), ALBERTO PONS; GABRIEL LEWIS.

6. JOURNALISTS: LUZ MARIA NOLI, CHANNEL 2; FERNANDO ELETA, CHANNEL 4; EUGENIO PONTON, PANAMA CORRESPONDENT FOR ACAN-EFE WIRE SERVICE; ALVARO MENENDEZ FRANCO; RONALD MOREAU, NEWSWEEK; ROGELIO ACHURRA, PHOTOGRAPHER.

7. MILITARY AND OTHER: LTC MANUEL ANTONIO NOREIGA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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G-2; CAPT. DOMINGO OCALAGAN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE; CAPT. AUGUSTO VILLALAZ, PANAMANIAN AIR FORCE; MEDICAL CAPTAIN CARLOS GARCIA, OFFICIAL PHYSICIAN. PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT NOREIGA, WHOMADE AN ADVANCE VISIT TO LIBYA IN MARCH, WOULD HEAD A SECURITY TEAM OF SIX NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL. THE TEAM WILL ALSO BE ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL TRANSLATORS, SECRETARIES, ETC.

8. ACCORDING TO PRESS, NO DATE FOR TRIP HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY SET AS YET. BUT THE PRESS SPEAKS OF THE FIRST HALF OF APRIL. THE PRESS SAYS THE GROUP WILL TRAVEL ON THE PANAMANIAN AIR FORCE'S ONLY ELECTRA PROP-JET--AND THE PANAMANIAN AIR FORCE ENLISTED THE INFORMAL ASSISTANCE OF THE MILGROUP AIR FORCE SECTION CHIEF OVER THE WEEKEND TO GET THE AIRCRAFT CHECKED OUT FOR THE FLIGHT ON AN URGENT BASIS.

9. COMMENT: THE DELEGATION IS LARGE, THOUGH SMALLER

THAN THE ONE THAT WENT TO CUBA WITH TORRIJOS IN JANUARY 1976. LIKE THE LATTER DELEGATION, IT HAS A FAIR IDEOLOGICAL BALANCE. IF ANYTHING, IT TILTS TO THE RIGHT. IT INCLUDES NO WELL-KNOWN LEFTISTS FROM OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT AND NO REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR OR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS. FROM WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, AHUMADA, PEREZ HERRERA AND MURGAS ARE USUALLY CLASSED AS "LEFTISTS", BUT OTHERS, SUCH AS VICE-PRESIDENT GONZLEZ, LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN MARCELINO JAEN AND EDUCATION MINISTER ROYO, ARE NOT INCLUDED.

10. THERE HAS BEEN SOME POPULAR SPECULATION THAT ONE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP MIGHT BE SHOPPING FOR WEAPONS. IF THIS IS SO, THE ABSENCE OF NATIONAL GUARD G-3 CONTRERAS, WHO ACCOMPANIED NOREIGA ON THE MARCH PREPARATORY TRIP TO TRIPOLI, IS VERY ODD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PANAMA 1993
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3138042
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TORRIJOS TRIP TO LIBYA
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PN, LY, (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/00d0bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009